



HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO  
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**VALTIOTIETEELLINEN TIEDEKUNTA**  
**STATSVETENSKAPLIGA FAKULTETEN**  
**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**



# EUROSTORIE COE DISCOVERING THE LIMITS OF REASON

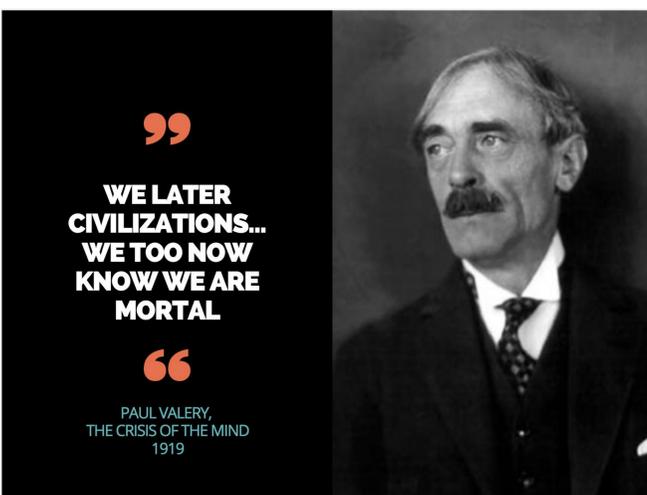
## THE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN LAW, IDENTITY AND THE EUROPEAN NARRATIVES

The Centre of Excellence in Law, Identity and the European Narratives is funded by the Academy of Finland and is hosted by the University of Helsinki. It is located at the Centre of European Studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences. The purpose of this CoE is to launch a new, third generation inquiry that critically explores the emergence of narratives of Europe as responses to the crises of the twentieth century and how these narratives have shaped the ideas of justice and community in Europe. It studies the foundational stories that underlie the contested idea of a shared European heritage in law and culture, such as the ideas of rule of law, equality, universalism, tolerance, pluralism and the rejection of totalitarianism, and their relevance for current debates on identity and history.

restore authorship to these multiple narratives by studying their original context and authors. The project investigates the connections between historical and contemporary narratives through the research collaboration by scholars of law, history, anthropology, religion and philosophy. Its main innovation is to relate these fundamental narratives by studying how the concepts of crisis, belonging and origin have been used to construct lineages and justifications. The timeframe of the inquiry begins in the interwar period, starting in 1918, and extends to the present. Earlier periods will be discussed when part of a historical narrative is under investigation. The choice of period is prompted by the continuities that are apparent from that period to the present, from the repercussions of the economic crises, value crises, crisis of liberalism and the resurgence of authoritarianism.

encompassing applicability of its values, practices and institutions – lies at the core of the modern project. This idea has legitimized not only the political development of European societies but also the propagation of European norms to other cultures.

The subproject focuses on the crisis of European universalism in the aftermath of the WWI. It investigates into the unique relativisation of European rationality in the philosophical, legal, scientific, theological and anthropological discourses of the inter-war period and the subsequent attempts to rethink the idea of universalism in the works of Continental philosophers. According to the central hypothesis, the competing political responses of the mid-war period can be understood in regard to different narratives of universalism.



**SUBPROJECT 2**

- WHAT WAS THE IMPACT OF THE WWI ON PHILOSOPHICAL IDEAS OF REASON AND UNIVERSALITY?
- HOW DID THE CRISIS OF REASON SHAPE OUR UNDERSTANDING OF HISTORY AND POLITICAL COMMUNITY?
- WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT FOR CONTEMPORARY EUROPE?

**TOPIC:** PHILOSOPHICAL DISCOURSE ON THE IDEA OF REASON, UNIVERSALITY, AND THEIR CRISIS. RESPONSES TO THE CRISIS.

**METHODS:** PHILOSOPHICAL AND GENEALOGICAL ANALYSIS OF KEY IDEAS

**RESULT:** NEW UNDERSTANDING OF THE CRISIS OF THE INTERWAR PERIOD AND ITS IMPACT ON THE EUROPEAN PROJECT

## DISCOVERING THE LIMITS OF REASON - EUROPE AND THE CRISIS OF UNIVER- SALISM

The subproject *Discovering the Limits of Reason - Europe and the Crisis of Universalism* argues that the idea of European universalism – the all-

## RESEARCHERS OF THE SUBPROJECT

Pamela Slotte, Vice Director of the CoE  
 Timo Miettinen, Team Leader  
 Pedro Magalhães, Postdoctoral Researcher  
 Tuukka Brunila, Doctoral Student

[www.eurostorie.org](http://www.eurostorie.org)

**RENEWING THE FIELD**

HOW TO RETHINK EUROPEAN STUDIES

- ✓ FROM POST-WWII TO INTERWAR PERIOD
- ✓ RETHINKING THE ROLE OF CRISES IN EUROPEAN HISTORY
- ✓ FROM IDEOLOGIES TO PHILOSOPHICAL IDEAS

Through a return to the origins of historical narratives that convey shared roots, experiences and values, the CoE deconstructs the idea of a monolithic European narrative. It also seeks to differentiate and



# EuroStorie

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